

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Larry for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING SGT JESSE LEE
BUCHANAN, SR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sgt Jesse Lee Buchanan, Sr.

Jesse was born on March 3, 1947 to the late John G. Sr. and Margaret Buchanan in Anniston, Alabama. Jesse attended Thankful Elementary School and graduated from William C. Overfelt in San Jose, California. He attended San Jose City College, Daniel Payne and in 1965 attended Florida A&M and played semi-professional football for the 1967 San Jose Patches. He also played with the Oakland Raiders before being drafted in the U.S. Army.

While serving in Vietnam, Jesse was wounded after being shot 18 times.

After being wounded, he was medically discharged with the Awards and Declarations which include: The National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Purple Heart.

Jesse re-entered San Jose City College, San Jose State and then became employed with the State of Veteran's Administration and San Jose City as a traffic engineer. He later worked for Eastman Kodak where he retired.

Jesse has been married to Diane for 36 years and has four children: LaShawn Dearing, Celeste Paige, William Buchanan and Jesse Jr. They have also been blessed with eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Jesse attends Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church and serves as a Trustee and Finance Advisor.

He is a member of the Thomas A. Williams Elks Lodge and was "Brother Elk of the Year" in 2014. He is also a member of the American Legion Post and the Masonic Jackson Pride.

In 2018, Jesse flew to Washington, D.C. with the Alabama Freedom Flight to see the Vietnam Wall and Korean Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Jesse for his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA AND STEVE
FRESE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marcia and Steve Frese of Bridgewater, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Marcia and Steve's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may

their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Marcia and Steve Frese on this meaningful occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING PLEASANT HOPE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Pleasant Hope Missionary Baptist of Lambert, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under, Rev. Reginald G. Griffin.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, sitting on the banks of Cassidy Bayou in Vance, Mississippi was originally granted to the African-American sharecropping community around 1902 to be used as a church and a school for African-American students. In those days especially in rural plantation settings where you had many sharecropping families, they only had church schools to attend. After the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Brown vs The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, changes had to be made in the delivery of education to African-American students. Due to the fact whites were trying to delay the impact of this landmark court decision that of separate but equal which later led to the forced integration of schools, they began to build public schools in the Mississippi delta, supposedly separate but equal in the 1950's and early 1960's. Therefore, as a result, New Hope Church was no longer needed to serve as a school; it was used solely for the edifying and uplifting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the surrounding communities. Many of the members in the mid to late 20th century came from the A. L. King, E. Q. Vance and William Yandell plantations in South Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties in Mississippi.

Former Pastors were: the late Jim Jones, Jordan Taylor, Jim Lee, Joe Survillian, T. Terry, L.J. Rodgers, M.L. Long and former Pastor Oswald G. McCaskill. In February of 2002 Reverend Reginald Griffin answered his call to Pastor New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

October 2005, Reverend Reginald Griffin, Pastor of the New Hope M.B. Church called a meeting with members of New Hope and Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church of Lambert, Mississippi, his former church prior to coming to New Hope. At this meeting, he put forth a plan to merge the two churches since both had declining memberships because of declining populations in the mostly sharecropping community. Through Divine intervention, the members of New Hope and the members of Pleasant Ridge agreed to the merge. The members of both congregations were given the task of renaming the new church. Pastor Griffin jokingly made the suggestion to name the new church Pleasant Hope and that name and other suggestions were voted on. By a slim majority vote in No-

vember 2005 the combined church officially became Pleasant Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Pleasant Hope Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Reginald Griffin was officially chartered in the small town of Vance, Mississippi on Cassidy Bayou, located on the Southwest corner of the intersection of Highway 3 (Charley Pride Highway) and Walnut Road.

The oldest member of New Hope at the time of the charter was Mother Corrine Jackson Thomas, age 84, and the oldest member now is still Mother Corrine Jackson Thomas at age 97.

Since many of the members had long since moved from the plantations and had settled in nearby Lambert and Marks, and the fact that the historic building of New Hope was no longer suitable for conducting services, the membership set sites on a more secure and suitable location to build a new sanctuary further North where most of the members had moved.

After much prayer and searching, Pastor Griffin and the Deacons were led to an overgrown parcel of land in the heart of Lambert (the Town of Hope) which was perfect for Pleasant Hope's new location. The parcel was purchased, cleared and the new edifice was erected. There were many struggles along the way including but not limited to a straight wind storm that blew many of the rafters down on July 4, 2012, but on September 12, 2012 the first worship service was held in the newly built church at 945 Sixth Street in Lambert, Mississippi.

The decision was made to demolish the old structure that was Pleasant Ridge, and plans are in place to preserve the cemetery and use the land in a way that benefits the present membership of Pleasant Hope. Sadly, the original sanctuary of New Hope that had been reconstructed under the leadership of Rev. Myles Long in the 1980's was accidentally or intentionally burned to the ground on April 10, 2016. The origin of the fire has not been determined. The land on which the old New Hope Church sat, was also a cemetery and will be preserved as such in the years ahead. However, the original building held many memories since most of the current membership confessed a home in Christ there.

Pastor Griffin was led to change church service times from 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, and 11:00 a.m. morning worship to holding Sunday School inclusive with morning worship beginning at 9:00 a.m. The church's motto is "We are a church on the move for Christ, our doors and hearts are always open and you are always welcome". Over the years the congregation has grown spiritually. We now have two Associate Ministers: Minister Gloria Richmond Jackson and Minister Tanya Shegog Thomas. Church Officers Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees, Weddie Jackson, Sr. Emeritus, Tommie L. Jackson, Chairman, Jack Clark, Jr., Vice Chairman, Larry Thomas, Church Clerk/Secretary, Elizabeth S. Goins, Treasurer, Andrew Jarriett, Jr., Assistant Treasurer, Robert L. Jackson, Member, Charles Beasley, Jr., Reginald G. Griffin, Pastor.

Pleasant Hope Missionary Baptist Church welcomes members of the Lambert, and surrounding counties of Quitman, Tallahatchie, Coahoma and Panola to utilize our sanctuary for weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other